



**Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas**
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

By email to: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

11 July 2024

Dear Taoiseach,

I write to you on behalf of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, with regard to political party manifestos for the upcoming general election, and our key equality and human rights recommendations for the next term of Government.

The Commission's role, established by the IHREC Act 2014, is to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland and build a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding.

Under that legislation, we are mandated to keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice in the State, relating to the protection of human rights and equality. This includes the examination of, and reporting on, legislative proposals that carry implications for human rights or equality, and the submission of recommendations to Government in relation to measures to strengthen, protect and uphold human rights and equality in Ireland.

Central to our fulfilment of this mandate is our engagement with members from the both houses of the Oireachtas and their political parties. As the 33rd Dáil enters its final months, we are mindful that political parties will be focussed on policy development in preparation for progressing their manifestos.

The Commission has developed a document entitled 'Key Equality and Human Rights Recommendations for the Next Government', attached to this correspondence. It highlights our recommendations in key policy areas that have significant human rights and equality implications. While the key recommendations in this document have been organised under departmental headings, we recognise that many of these issues require a cross-departmental and whole-of-government approach in their implementation.



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In addition to the attached document, our website contains an extensive catalogue of publications including legislative observations, international reports and research reports that contain in depth information on all our recommendations. You can access this resource at www.ihrec.ie.

All public bodies in Ireland, as defined in the IHREC Act, have a statutory obligation under s42 to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans. This includes Departments of State and bodies under their purview.

It is essential that human rights and equality are embedded in to our public services and remain at the forefront of policy and legislative development.

Should you or your officials require any further information about IHREC's work, please contact;

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Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Malone

Director



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